

CLAIMS

1. A method for collecting, selecting and transmitting selected data available at remote location to selected stations on a network, comprising the steps of:

- 5 a. collecting data based on an event occurring at the remote location;
- b. prioritizing the data and generating a prioritized signal from the prioritized data;
- c. transmitting the prioritized signal to a receiving station located on a network based on the priority; and
- d. managing the transmitted prioritized signal at the receiving station.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further including in the prioritizing step the time and location of the event in the transmitted prioritized signal.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the collected data includes an image signal and wherein the transmitted prioritized signal includes an image component.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the collected data defines an original scene and wherein the transmitted data is generated in response to a modification of the original scene, the method further comprising:

- a. collecting the data on a preselected basis;
- b. defining and transmitting an original scene to the remote station;
- c. comparing subsequent scenes to the original scene;
- d. transmitting only those subsequent scenes differing from the original scene.

25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the comparing step is completed at the camera.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the data is in the form of digital pixels and wherein the comparing step comprises identifying only those pixels altered from the original scene.

30 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of generating a change histogram from the change information created in the comparing step.

8. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of masking specific regions of the scene in order to ignore changes in said region.

9. The method of claim 4, further including the step of tagging each transmitted image with unique identifying data.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the tagging step is performed at the remote location.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the identifying data includes the date and time of the data defining a scene.

12. The method of claim 9, further wherein the identifying data further includes the duration of the data defining a scene.

13. The method of claim 11, further including a plurality of cameras and wherein the identifying data further includes a camera identifier.

14. The method of claim 4, further including a visual monitor at the remote location, wherein transmitted data may be selectively displayed at the monitor.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein transmitted data is displayed at the monitor in near real-time.

16. The method of claim 14, further including the step of tagging each transmitted image with unique identifying data.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the unique identifying data is displayed with the displayed data.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the monitor further includes a map of the scene.

19. The method of claim 18, further including a plurality of cameras and wherein an icon representing each camera is provided on the map.

20. The method of claim 19, further including an indicator that is activated when the data from a specific camera is displayed on the monitor and deactivated at other times.

5 21. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of storing the transmitted data at the remote location.

22. The method of claim 21, further including the step of retrieving the data from the stored data on command.

10 23. The method of claim 22, further including the step of tagging each transmitted image with unique identifying data.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the tagging step is performed at the remote location.

15 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the identifying data includes the date and time of the data defining a scene.

20 26. The method of claim 25, further wherein the identifying data further includes the duration of the data defining a scene.

27. The method of claim 25, further including a plurality of cameras and wherein the identifying data further includes a camera identifier.

25 28. The method of claim 1, wherein the managing step comprises generating an alarm at the receiving station.

29. The method of claim 1, wherein the managing step comprises displaying the transmitted signal at the receiving station.

30 30. The method of claim 1, wherein the managing step comprises generating an alarm and displaying

the transmitted signal at the receiving station.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein the managing step comprises storing the transmitted signal at the receiving station.

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32. A method for collecting, selecting and transmitting selected event data available at a remote location, comprising the steps of:

- a. collecting data on a preselected basis;
- b. defining and transmitting original event data to the remote location;
- c. comparing subsequent event data to baseline data;
- d. transmitting only event data differing from the baseline data;
- e. tagging each transmitted event data signal with unique identifying data; and
- f. storing the transmitted event data at the remote location.

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15 33. The method of claim 32, further including the step of retrieving the event data from the stored event data on command.

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34. The method of claim 32, wherein the tagging step is performed at the remote location.

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35. The method of claim 32, wherein the identifying data includes the date and time of the corresponding scene data.

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36. The method of claim 35, further wherein the identifying data further includes the duration of the corresponding event data.

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37. The method of claim 32, further including a plurality of cameras and wherein the identifying data further includes a camera identifier.

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38. The method of claim 1, further including a central management system and wherein the prioritizing step occurs after the collected data is sent to the management system.

39. The method of claim 38, further including retransmission of the data based on the

prioritization of the data at the central management system.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the retransmission step includes transmitting the data to selected recipients based on the prioritization step.

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41. The method of claim 39, wherein the retransmission step includes generating a visual icon on a graphic display at a remote location.

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42. The method of claim 39, wherein the retransmission step includes generating a voice signal at selected remote locations.

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43. The method of claim 39, wherein the retransmission step includes a substep of defining a recipient hierarchy and retransmitting in sequence in accordance with the hierarchy.

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44. The method of claim 43, further including the step providing a positive response signal to the central management system for indicating that a retransmitted signal has been received by a selected recipient.

45. The method of claim 44, further including the step of password encoding recipients.

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46. The method of claim 44, further including the step of managing the system through the central management system by a selected recipient after a retransmitted message has been received.

47. The method of claim 1, wherein the prioritizing step occurs prior to the transmitting step.

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48. The method of claim 1, wherein the prioritizing step occurs at a first hierarchy prior to the transmitting step and at a second hierarchy after the transmitting step.

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49. The method of claim 1, further including the step of generating a notification signal in response to a transmitted prioritized signal.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the notification signal is transmitted to selected recipients

on a network.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the notification signal is repeatedly transmitted until a selected recipient responds to the notification signal.

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52. The method of claim 50, further including the step of assigning a prioritization hierarchy to a plurality of recipients and wherein the notification signal is transmitted to recipients based on this hierarchy.

10 53. The method of claim 49, wherein the notification signal is transmitted to monitoring stations on a network.

54. The method of claim 49, wherein the notification signal is transmitted via telephonic means.

15 55. The method of claim 49, wherein the notification signal is transmitted via e-mail.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein the e-mail further includes an attachment including additional, event specific data.

20 57. The method of claim 56, wherein the attachment is image data.

58. The method of claim 50, wherein the receipt and response to the notification signal is password protected.

25 59. The method of claim 3, including the steps of capturing an image of personnel attempting to gain access through an access control system and logging all successful entry attempts and all unsuccessful attempts.

30 60. The method of claim 21, including the step of searching the database by any combination of specific individual, class of individual, by successful accesses, by unsuccessful accesses, by specific portal of entry with qualifiers of time, day, and location.

61. The method of claim 60 including the step of providing an image of those personnel attempting access to a facility along with the results of a search of the database by any of a specific individual, class of individual, by successful accesses, by unsuccessful accesses, by specific portal of entry with qualifiers of time, day, location.

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62. The method of claim 1, wherein the collecting step includes collecting event data at a remote location, identifying and prioritizing the data, and the transmitting step includes selectively transmitting the data to selective monitoring stations on a network based on an event prioritization hierarchy.

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63. The method of claim 62, including the step of comparing data generated at a remote location to determine the occurrence of an event and the transmitting step further includes the data to a selective monitoring station indicating the occurrence of an event.

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64. The method of claim 1, wherein the collecting step includes collecting video and still images of a scene and wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting any change in the scene in near real-time to a remote location.

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65. The method of claim 1, further including the step of compressing the data prior to the transmitting step.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein the compressing step further includes minimizing the amount of data to be transmitted without any loss of critical change data.

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67. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of defining the data in blocks of data and tagging each block of data with a unique identifier for enhancing storage, search and retrieval.

68. The method of claim 6, including the step of quantifying the amount of change between scenes.

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69. The method of claim 6, including the steps of quantifying the amount of change between scenes

and reporting such as an indication of level of motion.

70. The method of claim 6, including the step of ignoring anticipated or minimal changes in a scene by applying pre-selected criteria.

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71. The method of claim 6, including the step of blocking of specified regions of a scene to further enhance the monitoring, transmission and definition of the changes in the scene of a frame-to-frame basis.

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72. The method of claim 1, wherein the managing step further includes the step of correlating correlate motion between two or more cameras to determine if a motion detection event should be identified in order to eliminate false alarms.

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73. The method of claim 1, further including the step of controlling all functions and steps from a single interactive monitor screen.

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74. The method of claim 73, including the step of providing simultaneous access for two or more monitor screens each allowing functions of the system to be controlled by that interactive monitor.

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75. The method of claim 6, including the step of detecting the appearance or disappearance of an object.

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76. The method of claim 49, wherein the notification step includes detection of the presence of unauthorized events in a monitored zone and the transmitting step includes transmitting the detection to selected remote stations on a network on a near real-time basis.

77. The method of claim 49, wherein the notification step includes routing detected events, whereby the location of the incident may be visually located on a map at the remote station.